

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : **10/644,936** Confirmation No. 7378
Applicant : D. SHINOHARA et al.
Filed : August 21, 2003
Title : METHOD AND PROGRAM FOR DISCLOSING AND
PROVIDING SERVICES ON NETWORK
TC/AU : 2127
Examiner : TBD
Docket No. : NIT-391
Customer No.: 24956

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 CFR §1.102(d) (MPEP §708.02(VIII))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Applicants petition the Commissioner to make the above-identified application special in accordance with 37 CFR §1.102(d). In support of this Petition, pursuant to MPEP § 708.02(VIII), Applicants state the following.

(A) REQUIRED FEE

This Petition is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.117(h). A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$130 accompanies this Petition in satisfaction of the fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

additional payment due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

(B) ALL CLAIMS ARE DIRECTED TO A SINGLE INVENTION

Following the Preliminary Amendment filed on an even date herewith, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14, and 16-18 are pending in the application. All the pending claims of the application are directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all claims in the application are not directed to a single invention, Applicant will make election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

The claimed invention, as embodied in independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17, is generally directed to a first service providing means and a second service providing means having a dependent relationship wherein services are disclosed over a network. Under claim 1, the invention is a service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case where first service providing means and second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of: responsive to an inquiry issued from service utilizing means, sending by a service disclosing means a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure to said service utilizing means; receiving by said first service providing means a service request sent from said service utilizing means to request said second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to

said service utilizing means via said first service providing means, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

Additionally, under independent claim 4, the invention is a service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case where first service providing means and second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of: requesting by a service utilizing means said first service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure; accepting by said first service providing means a service request sent from said service utilizing means to request said second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

Furthermore, under independent claim 8, the invention is a service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case where first service providing means and second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of: accepting by said first service providing means a service request sent from service utilizing means and issued by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure to

request said second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

In addition, under independent claim 11, the invention is a first service providing program for, in a case where said first service providing program and a second service providing program located on a network have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and said second service providing program for, in said case, causing the one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via said first service providing program, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

Also, under independent claim 14, the invention is a program product comprising: a service providing program for, in a case where a first service providing program and a second service providing program located on a network have a

dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of sending back a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure to a service utilizing device in response to an inquiry sent from said service utilizing device; said first service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from said service utilizing device, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and said second service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

Finally, under independent claim 17, the invention is a program product comprising: a first service providing program for, in a case where said first service providing program and a second service providing program located on a network have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide services by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and said second service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more

computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

(C) PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH

A careful and thorough pre-examination search has been conducted, directed to the invention as claimed. The pre-examination search was conducted in the following US classification areas:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclass</u>
709	203, 205, 217, 219, 220, 225, 226

Additionally, a keyword search was conducted on the USPTO's EAST database, including the US Patent database, the Published US Application database, and the European and Japanese Abstract databases.

(D) DOCUMENTS DEVELOPED BY THE PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH AND OTHER ART OF RECORD IN THE APPLICATION

The documents located by the pre-examination search are listed immediately below. These documents were made of record in the present application by the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 1, 2005.

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
US 5,978,779	Stein et al.
US 6,012,090	Chung et al.
US 6,385,651	Dancs et al.

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
US 6,701,316	Li et al.
US 6,745,239	Hubbard
US 20010056389	Fair et al.
US 20020002579	Holden et al.
US 20020120461	Kirkconnell-Ewing et al.
US 20020120685	Srivastava et al.
US 20020138546	Parsonnet et al.
US 20020156876	Hartman
US 20030119528	Pew et al.
US 20030188019	Wesley
US 20030229503	Dan et al.
US 20040002878	Maria Hinton
US 20040054717	Aubry et al.
US 20040059704	Hellerstein et al.
US 20040073436	Vaishnavi
US 20040078475	Camenisch et al.
US 20040128378	Blakely et al.

Additionally, the following document was made of record in the present application by the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 21, 2003.

Publication

Guttman, E., et al., *Service Location Protocol, Version 2*, June 1999, IETF, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2608.txt>

Because all of the above-listed documents are already of record in the present application, in accordance with MPEP § 708.02(VIII)(D), additional copies of these documents have not been submitted with this Petition.

(E) DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE REFERENCES

Those of the above-listed documents deemed to be most closely-related to the present matter encompassed by the claims are discussed below in section 2,

pointing out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the present claimed matter is patentable over the teachings of these documents.

1. Discussion of the Invention

The present invention generally is directed to a first service providing means and a second service providing means having a dependent relationship wherein services are disclosed over a network, such as when the first service has a security function and permits the provision of a second service only for a user having an access right, and the second service provides substantial service. Under such a situation, it is desirable that users are not able to directly access the second service. Accordingly, the invention provides a technology for disclosing and providing services, such as in a network, where first service providing means and second service providing means located on the network have a dependent relationship. The technology is characterized by causing service disclosing means responsive to an inquiry issued from a service utilizing means to send back a location of the first service providing means under disclosure to the service utilizing means. The first service providing means receives the service request sent from the service utilizing means and requests the second service providing means to provide services by using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure. The second service providing means sends back the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service utilizing means.

Thus, as set forth in independent claims 1, 4, and 8, a feature of the present invention is a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means.

Similarly, as recited in independent claims 11, 14, and 17, a feature of the invention is a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program.

An additional feature of all the independent claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 is that the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device. As discussed below, the prior art of record in the application does not show or suggest such features in combination with the other limitations of the independent claims.

2. Discussion of the References Believed to be Most-Closely Related

Published US Patent Application No. 20020138546, to Parsonnet et al., shows a system for monitoring, controlling and administering role-based work flows associated with service requests between customers who generate the service requests, and vendors capable of filling the service requests. Customer networks 110, 120, 130 and vendor networks 150, 160, 170 communicate over a common communication network 140. A remote, role-based asynchronous collaborative service environment is provided for initiating and controlling work flow between customers and one or more vendors. Role-based identification and selection allows the vendor identification to both be hidden and virtual, which in turn allows the role to be filled by any entity capable of providing the service. The separation of the request for services from the specific supplier simplifies the request, and enables the services to be brokered without knowledge as to where the services are being rendered. (See, e.g., paragraphs 8, 18, 39, and 44-51.) Thus, Parsonnet is directed to brokering of services between customers and vendors, and does not teach a method in which a first service providing means and a second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, as recited in claims 1, 4, and 8; nor does Parsonnet teach a program in which a first service providing program and a second service providing program on a network have a dependent relationship, as set forth in claims 11, 14, and 17. In addition, Parsonnet does not teach sending a service request that is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about the

device, in combination with the other limitations of the independent claims, as set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over Parsonnet.

Published US Patent Application No. 20030119528, to Pew et al., shows a system and method for creating an automated intermediary between parties to a remote commercial transaction. A managed profile for a consumer and/or a producer and a set of relationship rules are used to facilitate the brokering of a transaction. A consumer can direct a transaction broker to initiate a transaction, and the broker considers the applicable data in the consumer's profile and the set of relationship rules to determine a course of action. The broker secures information from the producer, and if all transaction conflicts are resolved, the transaction is consummated. (See, e.g., paragraphs 13, 28-31, 41-42, and 53-73.) However, Pew does not teach that the location of the producer is under non-disclosure, as in all the independent claims of the present invention. Further, Pew does not teach a method in which a first service providing means and a second service providing means located on a network have a dependent relationship, as recited in claims 1, 4, and 8; nor does Pew teach a program in which a first service providing program and a second service providing program on a network have a dependent relationship, as set forth in claims 11, 14, and 17. In addition, Pew does not teach sending a service request that is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about the device, in combination

with the other limitations of the independent claims, as set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over Pew.

The publication to Guttman, et al., entitled *Service Location Protocol, Version 2*, is directed to a service location protocol (SLP) for providing a flexible and scalable framework for providing hosts with access to information about the existence, location, and configuration of networked services. SLP eliminates the need for a user to know the name of a network host supporting a service. Rather, the user supplies the desired type of service and a set of attributes which describe the service. Based on that description, the SLP resolves the network address of the service for the user. (See, e.g., pages 4-6.) However, Guttman does not show or suggest that the second service providing means provides the services by using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure, as set forth in the independent claims of the present invention. Thus, Guttman does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Guttman disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a

second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Guttman does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device. Thus, the claims of the present invention are patentable over Guttman.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040128378, to Blakely et al., shows a method and system for management of user attribute information at one or more attribute information providers (AIPs). E-commerce service providers (ECSPs), such as online banks or merchants, also maintain a relationship with an AIP, such that an ECSP can trust the user attribute information that is provided by the AIP on behalf of the user. A user can complete transactions that require user attribute information at any ECSP without having to have previously established a relationship with that particular ECSP. The user directs the ECSP to an AIP when the ECSP needs the user attribute information. (See, e.g., Abstract and paragraphs 20-21 and 93-100.) Accordingly, the claims of the present application are patentable over Blakely because in the under the claims of the present application, the location of the second service providing means is not disclosed to the user, whereas in Blakely, the user

directs the ECSP to an AIP. Thus, Blakely does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Blakely disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Blakely does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040078475, to Camenisch et al., is directed to a method and system for providing anonymous-access to a service within a network. A user sends a request including access-service information and requested service information to an anonymous access service. The anonymous-

access service assigns the access-service information to subscription information and connects to the service by sending a verified request comprising the subscription information and the requested service information. (See, e.g., paragraphs 8-12, and 34-37.) Thus, the present invention is patentable over Camenisch because in the present invention the location of the second service providing means is not disclosed, whereas in Camenisch, it is the identity of the user that is not disclosed. Thus, Camenisch does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Camenisch disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Camenisch does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request

is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040059704, to Hellerstein et al., is directed to a method, computer program product, and data processing system for constructing a self-managing distributed computing system comprised of autonomic elements. An autonomic element provides a set of services, and may provide them to other autonomic elements. Relationships between the autonomic elements includes the providing and consuming of such services. In order to acquire a service from an additional component, a requesting component consults a directory component, and the directory component provides the requesting component with the information needed to allow the requesting component to make use of the services of the needed component. (See, e.g., paragraphs 9 and 35-42.) Thus, the claims of the present application are patentable over Hellerstein because Hellerstein does not provide for a first service providing means receiving a service request sent from a service utilizing means, wherein the first service providing means requests a second service providing means to provide services by using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure. Accordingly, Hellerstein does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second

service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Hellerstein disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Hellerstein does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040002878, to Hinton, shows a method, system, and computer program product for cross-domain, single-sign-on, authentication. A user may contract with one or more authentication service provides (ANSPs). The ANSPs also have relationships with E-commerce service providers (ECSPs), such as online banks or online merchants, such that the ECSPs can trust the identity of a user that is vouched for by an ANSP on behalf of a user. (See, e.g., paragraphs 16 and 49-64.) Thus, the present invention is patentable over Hinton because in Hinton the user has a prior contract with one or more of the ANSPs, whereas in the present application, the location of the second service

provider is under non-disclosure with respect to the user. Thus, Hinton does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Hinton disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Hinton does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

The patent to Stein et al., US Patent No. 5,978,779, shows a system and device for integrating and structuring the relationships of a financial services provider (FSP) with its clients and third parties. Each entity with which the FSP transacts business is assigned a unique identifier client/counterparty identification (CCID).

Once a new client is entered into the FSP's database, a ledger or virtual ledger is generated for the client that includes all related CCIDs. If a client desires to engage in a transaction requiring the creation of a new relationship, the relationship can be input by the FSP user and added to the client's existing ledger. (See, e.g., column 6, line 66, through column 9, line 25.) Thus, Stein does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving a service request sent from the service utilizing means and then requesting the second service providing means to provide services by using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure, since in Stein, the client is able to know the source of the new relationship. Accordingly, Stein does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Stein disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17.

Further, Stein does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

3. Remaining References

The remaining references of record in the application are deemed to not be most-closely related to the present invention, and/or were provided as background information, and also do not show or suggest the present invention. However a detailed discussion of these documents has been provided to forestall dismissal of this Petition should the Examiner disagree with this assessment of relevance.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040073436, to Vaishnavi, shows a method of managing delivery of a service that includes defining selected attributes of and interrelationships among four interacting components including a service provider, one or more customers of the service, technology required for delivering the service, as well as one or more suppliers of that technology. However, Vaishnavi is a method for managing and monitoring delivery of a service, rather than as in the present application, in which a first service providing means and a second service providing means have a dependent relationship for delivering services on a network, wherein there is non-disclosure of the location of the second service providing means to the user of the services. Thus, Vaishnavi does not show or suggest a first

service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Vaishnavi disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Vaishnavi does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20020156876, to Hartman et al., is directed to an applications management server that interfaces with a master database server and the servers of one or more application service providers to facilitate selection and de-selection of applications, services, and capabilities. However, the location of the service providing means is not under non-disclosure to

the requestor of the services, as required by the claims of the present application.

Thus, Hartman does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Hartman disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Hartman does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20040054717, to Aubry et al., is directed to a system for granting access to network software services by incorporating the use of passwords or smart cards. The system enables a user to access a vendor's

software without having to sell the software to the user or installing the software on the user's computer. An Application Service Provider (ASP) enables a user to use an Infostore containing the software, and monitors the user's usage. Accordingly, the location of the second service providing means or program is not under non-disclosure, as in the present invention. Thus, Aubry does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Aubry disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Aubry does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20030229503, to Dan et al., is directed to a method, system, computer program product, and data structure for processing requests for services in a networked data processing system. A request is received by a service provider. The request includes a plurality of actions wherein the relationships between the plurality of actions are defined. The service provider processes the plurality of actions according to the defined relationships and generates a response. Accordingly, the claims of the present invention are patentable over Dan, since Dan does not disclose a second service providing means that is requested by the first service providing means to provide services to using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure. Thus, Dan does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Dan disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service

providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Dan does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20030188019, to Wesley, shows methods, systems and computer program products for providing management functions in decentralized networks. Persistent identifiers are provided for nodes, allowing nodes to be identified across sessions and invocations, even though the nodes re-enter the network with different network addresses. Thus, the claims of the present application are patentable over Wesley because Wesley uses persistent identifiers, whereas in the present invention, the location of the second service providing means is under non-disclosure. Thus, Wesley does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Wesley disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the

second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Wesley does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20020120685, to Srivastava et al., is directed to a system for dynamically invoking remote network services using service descriptions stored in a service registry. A separate service description for each given data resource is stored in a database. When a client sends a request for services to a services interface program, the program receives and routs output information provided by the particular resource. However, the location of the particular resource is not under non-disclosure from the client. Thus, Srivastava does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Srivastava disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a

function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Srivastava does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20020120461, to Kirkconnell-Ewing et al., shows a system and method for registering agents and service providers with a business solution sales system, providing information about business solutions offered by the service providers to the agents, and facilitating authorization of the agents to sell business solutions of the service providers to customers. Thus, Kirkconnell-Ewing is directed to describing the services to the customer by the agent, and then selling the services to the customer if the customer is interested in purchasing the services. Thus, the present invention is patentable over Kirkconnell-Ewing, since the services of Kirkconnell-Ewing are not provided to the user through a first service providing means, but are provided at a later time by a second service provider. Accordingly, Kirkconnell-Ewing does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing

means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Kirkconnell-Ewing disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Kirkconnell-Ewing does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20020002579, to Holden, shows a system and method for providing services using a Web hub for facilitating and managing relationships between and among companies and service providers as a business-to-business site on the World Wide Web. The system provides suppliers and customers in an industry with "one-stop" to locate services that will facilitate their interactions. Over time, direct connections are established among and between

members of the community such that the hub-and-spoke model transforms into a neural network. Accordingly, the claims of the present application are patentable over Holden, since Holden does not disclose or suggest a first service providing means that receives a service request sent from a service utilizing means and then requests the second service providing means to provide services by using a location of the second service providing means under non-disclosure. Accordingly, Holden does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Holden disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Holden does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

Published US Patent Application No. 20010056389, to Fair et al., shows a method for facilitating negotiated fee-based billable communication on a network by forming a business relationship between a third party and a plurality of business service providers. The method includes facilitating communication between the service providers and clients via the network. However, the location of the service providers is not maintained under non-disclosure. Thus, the claims of the present application are patentable over Fair because Fair does not disclose or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Fair disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Fair does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service

request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

The patent to Hubbard, US Patent No. 6,745,239, shows a method and system such that when a user places an order with a computer supplier for a computing system, the computer supplier determines whether the user has an existing relationship with an Internet service provider (ISP). When the user has an existing ISP relationship, the computer supplier contacts the ISP and obtains configuration data associated with the existing ISP relationship. Accordingly, the claims of the present invention are patentable over Hubbard as Hubbard does not maintain a location under non-disclosure, since the user has an existing relationship with the ISP. Thus, Hubbard does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Hubbard disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer

to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Hubbard does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

The patent to Li, US Patent No. 6,701,316, is directed to a content delivery services provide which directs at least one proxy server to pre-fetch content from at least one content provider original site. The content delivery services provider is part of a system for storing and delivering content, which includes a plurality of end user browsers for requesting content, at least one content provider original site for delivering the content, and at least one proxy server for storing the content. Thus, Li is directed to optimizing pre-fetch bandwidth, and does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Li disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing

program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Li does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

The patent to Dancs et al., US Patent No. 6,385,651, shows an internet service provider (ISP) registration mechanism provided by a centralized authority to a user's network computer client device (NC). However, in Dancs, the ISP to which the user wishes to connect is known to the user. Thus, Dancs does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Dancs disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second

service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Dancs does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

The patent to Chung et al., US Patent No. 6,012,090, shows a method for a user to invoke parallel access to a group of network services by selecting a particular group name and a desired access mode. A registration applet embedded in a registration page of a browser program allows a user to associate a user-specified group name with several URLs, HTTP POST or GET requests. Thus, Chung does not show or suggest a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as set forth in claims 1, 4, and 8. Neither does Chung disclose a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a

location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17. Further, Chung does not teach a method or program including the limitations set forth in claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 in which the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device.

CONCLUSION

Thus, from the foregoing, it is apparent that none of the above-discussed documents teach a first service providing means receiving/accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing means to request a second service providing means to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing means being under non-disclosure, and then sending back by the second service providing means the requested information to the service utilizing means via the first service providing means, as recited in claims 1, 4, and 8. Similarly, none of the above-discussed document teach a first service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from a service utilizing device, and a function requesting a second service providing program to provide a service by using a location of the second service providing program being under non-disclosure, and the second service providing program causing a computer to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing

device via the first service providing program, as recited in claims 11, 14, and 17.

Furthermore, none of the above-discussed documents teach that the service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information of the device, in combination with the other limitations of the independent claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 14, and 17 are patentable over the art of record.

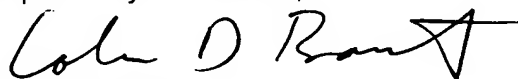
The Applicants submit that the foregoing discussion demonstrates the patentability of the independent claims over the closest-known prior art, taken either singly, or in combination. The remaining claims depend from the independent claims, claim additional features of the invention, and are patentable at least because they depend from allowable base claims. Accordingly, the requirements of 37 CFR §1.102(d) having been satisfied, the Applicants request that this Petition to Make Special be granted and that the application be examined according to prescribed procedures set forth in MPEP §708.02 (VIII).

The Applicants prepared this Petition in order to satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and MPEP §708.02 (VIII). The pre-examination search required by these sections was "directed to the invention as claimed in the application for which special status is requested." MPEP §708.02 (VIII). The search performed in support of this Petition is believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of MPEP §708.02 (VIII); however, Applicants make no representation that the search covered every conceivable search area that might contain relevant prior art. It is always possible that prior art of greater relevance to the claims may exist. The Applicants

urge the Examiner to conduct his or her own complete search of the prior art, and to thoroughly examine this application in view of the prior art cited above and any other prior art that may be located by the Examiner's independent search.

Further, while the Applicants have identified and discussed certain portions of each cited reference in order to satisfy the requirement for a "detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and (c), how the claimed present matter is patentable over the references" (MPEP §708.02(VIII)), the Examiner should not limit review of these documents to the identified portions, but rather is urged to review and consider the entirety of each reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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